We

are

other

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"We are other" is a zine brought to life by a ghost and everyone who took the time to send in their submissions. This was organized on the Tumblr blog @we-are-other, and it is meant to be completely free. You are encouraged to just send the PDF to anyone who might want to have it. I hope for it to make the voices of otherkin beings, alterhumans, nonhumans and therians just a little bit louder.

Part one of this zine is a list of identities and their definition, to make the rest of this zine more accessible to everyone who might be very new to this topic. I wanted them to be short and easy to understand, but also written by someone who identifies with those terms. So I gathered some definitions on Tumblr and compiled them into one cohesive thing.

The main part consists of a list of "I am" statements collected on Tumblr. Over 60 submissions by all kinds of different beings telling the world what they are. Some of these contributions are short, some are long, all are worth being heard.

There are two versions of this zine. This is the white version. It is meant to be screenreader-friendly. It is made with the AxesWord Demo and is written in the font "Verdana". The text is black on a white background. It has more detailed image descriptions and is arranged in a way that is easy to understand using a screen reader.

The purple version is written in the dyslexia-friendly font "OpenDyslexic". The text is black on a pale purple background. It has short image descriptions. You can find it here:

https://rahnemikah.itch.io/we-are-other

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Alterhuman

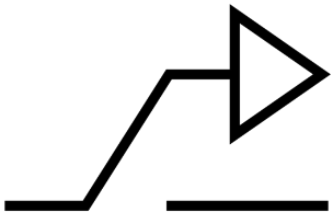

Image of the alterhuman symbol.
It's a simple black line drawing of the Unicode symbol for the alt key.
It looks like an arrow diverging from its original path.
End image description.

An alterhuman is someone whose humanity is altered in some way, either somewhat or completely. They may have an identity that does not fit into the common idea of what a human is, or experience an alternative way of being human. They may feel that they are part human, part something else, fully human but differently, or not human at all.

Nonhuman

Image of the non-human unity flag.
It's a horizontal tricolor flag. From top to bottom, the colors are green, white and purple. There is a white circle in the middle and a black line drawing of a symbol on it. The symbol consists of a upward pointing triangle, a circle and a seven-pointed star, all of which overlap each other.
End image description.

A nonhuman is someone who is not human. They might identify as nonhuman spiritually, mentally, physically, or in any other way. They may know their perceived humanity to be false, either fully or partially.

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Physically Nonhuman

A physical nonhuman is someone who identifies as nonhuman on a physical level, either somewhat or completely. This can be for a variety of reasons. Their body may feel inherently nonhuman to them in some way, or they may not feel like a nonhuman in a human body, but instead like a nonhuman with a body that is therefore nonhuman too, despite appearances.

Therian

Image of the Theta-Delta, a symbol for therianthropy.
It's a black line drawing of two Greek letters intertwined with each other. The Delta, an upward pointing triangle and the Theta, a circle with a horizontal line in the middle.
End image description.

A therian is a being who, in some way, knows themselves to be an animal. They may be an animal instead of a human, or both at once. Most therians identify as a specific animal or animals, (real life, extinct, or fictional) and these can change as a therian explores their identity. Most therians recognize that they at least physically appear to be human, whether they understand themselves to be human on any other level is personal to them. Therian is short for therianthrope and the animal they are is referred to as their theriotype.

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Otherkin

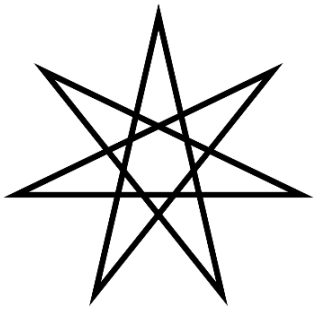

Image of the otherkin symbol.
It's a simple black line drawing of a seven-pointed star made of intersecting lines.
End image description.

Otherkin means being something other than fully or conventionally human. It is similar to being a therian, but with less emphasis on being an animal. A lot of otherkin beings are mythical, fictional or supernatural. What they are is referred to as their kintype.

Otherlink

Being otherlink means one's identity is voluntarily or intentionally developed in some way. This doesn't mean they aren't their linktype. It just means they chose to be what they are for reasons that are personal to them.

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Fictionkin

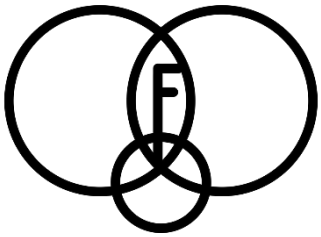

Image of the fictionkin symbol.
It's a black line drawing of three overlapping circles, the bottom one smaller than the others. Within the overlapping area of the circles is the capital letter F.
End image description.

Fictionkin is a being who, in some way, knows themselves to be based in fiction. Most fictionkin beings identify as one or more specific fictional characters, fictional species, or residents of a fictional world, or they experience fictionality in some other way.

Fictionflicker

Fictionflickers have impermanent/short-term identities called flickertypes and may develop new ones frequently. Fictionflicker is similar to fictionkin, but some may not fully identify as a fictionkin of their flickertypes. New flickertypes may or may not be caused or influenced by hyper fixations or new interests in a character or piece of media.

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“I am a dog, a cat, and a thing!”
- written by Itibhis, he/it, 16

“i am an alterhuman. i’m a therian, a beautiful tabby cat and a scrappy hyena. i’m angelkin, and how i long for my wings back. i may be a cryptid, indescribable and strange. i may be fictionkin, an alien race living on a planet so many humans long for. all in all i am alterhuman and that will never, ever change.”
- written by howlett

“I'm a shapeshifter”
- written by Anonymous

“i’m an angel, a seraph of an unknown g/d.”
- written by Monday, he/hymn, 21

“We are the unknown,
Made from stardust and memories,
Lives already lived and steps already taken.
By species not of our own.”
- written by Atlas System, all pronouns

“hello. i am a cat. a hucat/cathuman if you will. i'm a human descended from felids rather than primates. i love who i am, the only thing i wish to change is the way others see my form. if i could be seen as a fully autonomous cat to everyone i meet i would. if i could get tattoos to make my face more catlike , prosthetic ears, a tail, & whiskers, i would. unfortunately, it's not in the cards for me living in the red state that i do. i beg of you, those who live in safe areas to do so, wear your tails and your ears. be open, be loud, be proud. we're here and we always have been. we are animals, but we are also people*. i long for a day that me and folk like me can b safely open about our nonhuman/alterhuman identities. the only way to make this a reality is by making them aware, and letting them know we arent a threat. we are just creatures trying to live our lives alongside everyone else. trying to get by while also being true to ourselves... (goodness thiswas a wordvomit sorey im drunk as hell)”
- written by cyrus, it/he, 19

“I'm a cryptid”
- written by Anonymous

“i am a fox both mentally and physically. <3”
- written by Fern, It/Bat, 14

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“I’m a monster made of fear and pain, incorrect and unreal, strange and cruel. dubiously fear avatar kin even more dubiously reality bender kin (they’re just the closest things to me). imagine an evil urban legend but add a little spc as seasoning.”
- written by an aroace man, he/him

“I'm a deer, coyote, and dragon. I've been part of the alterhuman community for over a decade and realized my nonhuman identity even before I realized I was trans. I met one of my partners through my dragonkin identity, and I'm happy to say I'm in a polycule of alterhumans 4 strong! All of my theriotypes are always part of me, shifting in intensity like chords in a song, and being in touch with what I am has kept me grounded while I figured out who I am.”
- written by Melons, he/him, 28

“I’m a catdog (Saint Bernard and calico cat), wyvern, and slitherwing (from HTTYD)!”
- written by Sydnee, minor, it/its and neos

“i am a red fox and an ocelot!”
- written by kit, he/they, 18

“I'm a hare and a sea monster”
- written by Robin it/its

“i am a werewolf and Pokémon”
- written by milo he/they/it

“I am a dog-like cryptid, a divine concept, a maned wolf, and a song.”
- written by Toga, it/its

“I'm a coyote, jackrabbit, dragon, and seal.”
- written by Oli, any/all, 23

“I'm a bluejay and a shapeshifter.”
- written by Cass, they/it :)

“I'm a wyvern who dances with lightning and lives among humans. I'm a bobcat who watches and listens and hides and hunts.”
- written by Anonymous

“I am me. it sounds so simple. i am the sky, i am the stars. i am the tide, i am the moon. i observe beside you. i am right here. i come from a place far way. an alien, an organism, someone who is different yet just the

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same as you. you would never know. and i look on.”
- written by anon, 19, Germany

“I'm not human. Sure, I may look like one. But what we see isn't necessarily what we are. The physical is only one way of experiencing the world.
I'm really a wolverine. Maybe this is hard to believe. "You don't look like a wolverine" you may say. "You don't have fur or a tail. You can't be an animal". You're right, I don't have fur, nor do I have a tail. Though I feel strongly in my soul that I should.
Internally I'm an animal. I've been this way my whole life. Growing up in a human society is hard when your heart yearns to run free. My claws have been blunted, my fur shaved off, my ears and tail are unnoticeable to the naked eye. But that doesn't change who I really am.
I'm not human. And that is my burden to carry.”
- written by Anonymous

“I’m a solarian (from ðe game Nine Sols) and perhaps also a disassembly drone and solver drone (from ðe show Murder Drones) although ðe last two may simply be ðe hyperfixation hyperfixarioning i dunno”
- written by Anonymous

“i am a dog and i am a dog and i am a dog and i am canine all the way deep down, i am canine, i am canine”
- written by ghost (she/they/feral)

“I am a winged black cat, black panther, and FNAF Mangle fictionkin. People in my school and my family think I just really like cats. Little do they all know about the silly being I truly am”
- written by 🐈⬛💫

“I’m a German Shepherd.”
- written by Vince, 23

“I am Nagito, a troubled and slightly insane man.
I am Mistoffelees, a confident catlike being who is possibly something much more mysterious.
I am Orin, a sadistic yet regretful dentist.
I am Neuovillette, the draconic Chief Justice of Fontaine.
I am Munkustrap, the catlike guardian of my clan.
I and The Namirin, an elegant and playful war god who killed himself for the good of his people.
I am Tenehet, a kind yet distant god of justice who never betrays my own values.
I am Vil, a model and actor who strives for perfection.
I am Koaru, a twin forever separated from his brother.

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I am a wolf, a raven avian, and a shapeshifter.
I am Therian, Fictionkin, and Otherkin.
I am so many things, many of which I have not yet discovered, but overall, I am me”
- written by Arin/Zephyr, he/e/they

“I'm otherkin and therian. I'm an angel, but I'm also a pukeko chick.”
- written by Jonathan, fluff/he/they

“I’m a dragon. I am a dragon I am a dragon I am a dragon I am a dragon I am a dragon
I am from the mountains, I am from the sky, I am from the wind and the peaks and the rivers and the fog, I am a dragon”
- written by Juniper

“I am nonhuman. My spirit has lived long in this universe, and it was once divine. A star shining brightly in the sky, it could change form and walk the Earth as birds, a wolf, and a deer. Each form my spirit took, it intertwined itself with that being. For some reason, I have fallen. My human vessel carries a spirit, a soul, with stories from long ago. Every day, I rediscover a part of that story. A piece of this human life is combined with all my lives before this one to create me. I am all these wonderful creatures, and they are all me. My spirit may not be what it once was, but it will forever carry the echoes of the past. I am nonhuman, beautiful and strange.”
- written by Anonymous

“I am a coyote and a fictionkin of many people”
- written by Sol, any pronouns, teenage minor

“I’m a fictionkin, I’m a mutant turtle, I’m just a dude who likes hockey, I’m a grimwalker, I’m some annoying rich dog!”
- written by Anonymous

“I'm an usagimimi and angel otherkin”
- written by Anonymous

“I am an angel, at the core of my being. I am also a polar bear-german shepherd hybrid. I miss my wings, my paws, my whiskers, my ears… I think about them all the time.”
- written by Anonymous

“I'm my self-inserts! I change with the seasons, my interests, and my emotions. I’m a legendary dragon, the essence of winter. And I’m a girl who yearns for that cottage in the valley. I'm human and not human all

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at once. I'm multitudes. I'm me!”
- written by Anonymous

“i'm a lot of things, but at this point in time i'm mostly a cerberus, angel deer and snow leopard.”
- written by thresh0r (no capitals), he/they/it/dog/bark

“I am dead. I’m a ghost, possessing a body that used to be mine, used to be human even, but now it’s torn and twisted. A creature acting on instinct alone. I’m an alterhuman possessing a physically nonhuman body. You can call me a cryptid and a thing. I am torn into two but whole nonetheless.”
- written by Ghost, 21, it/ghost/they

“I’m a lot of things. I’m an alternate, a creature of deception and lies. I’m a wolf, a pack animal and a hunter. I’m the Mothman, a high-flying cryptid with bright red eyes. I’m a bunny, fluffy and small and full of love. I’m more than just that, but I feel close to those.”
- written by Critter, They/It

“i am a barghest, and i am alive.”
- written by Anonymous

“I am a being of pure negativity, put into a skeleton monster body in two timelines, and a humanoid (still somehow monster despite looking entirely human) body in two other timelines.
I am a demon.
I am an angel.
I am a ghost, in a surprising amount of timelines.
I am a golden retriever.
I am a calico cat.
I am an orange cat.
I am a lot of types of cats.
I am a super-powered being.
I am a kannagi.
I am a fairy.
I am a vestige.
I am more than I thought I was. And I love that.”
- written by Star, He/Him, 16

“I'm a Poodle at its owners feet, a Nymph whos one with the lakes and the trees, a Toy on a shelf staring back at you, longing to be held.”
- written by Noelle, 21, He/She/It

“I am a fox and an avian. What I would give to run through the forests with that much grace. What I would give to fly, to feel the wind beneath

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my wings and use it to carry me.”
- written by Faux, they/he/ey/it

“I am a dog.
My tail wags, my bark echos. My paws have carried me through it all, my teeth have warded off death.
I am a dog.
For those that I love, I will do anything for. For devotion runs deep in my blood, deeper than I think anyone knows.
I am a dog.
As I look to the world I see magic in what I don't understand. As I look with human eyes I process it as an animal.
I am a dog.
Sometimes I feel sick with it, broken beyond any repair. Sometimes I say these words and mean them with hate.
I am a dog.
I lay on my couch, I go out on walks, I follow my housemates around. I find it hard to talk to people, I stumble and bump into things, I am disabled.
I am a dog. I am a dog. I am a dog.”
- written by Anonymous

“i am many things at once, and yet not really anything. i am a wolf and its prey at the same time. i might belong somewhere on earth, but at the same time, i yearn for a place among the stars. i am not fully content in my body, but i have learned to accept it as it is.”
- written by Anonymous

“I am:
An amalgamation of different selves / my ‘self’ is unified.
A bird — a Kestrel, a Hawk-Eagle / A Shark; I am a creature of the blue [sky and sea].
A Museum / A Ghost; I am a record of things that have passed.
What I am can be defined with many words / what I am is indescribable.
I am undeniably what I am / I am contradictory.
I know what I am / I do not know what I am.
I am”
- written by Captain, 16

“We are multiple beings in one body. Creatures, if you will. Some of us are fully animal, some fully human, and some are something else entirely. One of us is a German Shepherd, another is a cat. We are all connected.”
- written by The Paw System

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“I am an angel turned succubus, punished by this body”
- written by Peaches, she/he/it

“I am a concept that can only be described as divine. I am a mysterious and unknown to mankind dog-like cryptid that roams the deepest ends of the forest and sheathes itself in the cover of night. I am 3 separate timelines and universes of the same fictional character that mimics someone that they find admirable and attractive, using such an appearance and bending it for their use to prey on others. I am a fast paced, aggressive song that envokes violent urges in others that listen to me. I am an entire genus of moths, fluttering and flying towards the light desperately. I am a maned wolf, silently creeping towards my prey with freakishly long limbs. I am 3 species of wolf all at once, howling to talk to my fellow packmates and violently mauling any and all that come in my way. I am many forms of felids and felines, pouncing and hissing at everything that moves or dares to escape my grasp. I am an anteater, my long snout slithering into every nook and cranny in search of a meal.”
- written by Toga, zhe/her/it/they/any (non masc/male/male-aligned)

“ I am a deer trapped in a human body, in a human world, confined to human streets and human buildings. I just want to go home.”
- written by Anonymous

“I am a fragment of a god. I am light itself. I am madness. I contain multitudes. I am a Great Old One. I am the King of Carcosa. I terrify some, and am beloved by others. I am unending.”
- written by John Doe, she/he.

“We are two nonhuman headmates in a nonhuman-heavy system.
I, the host, am a cladotherian bear (mostly american black/cinnamon bear and grizzly bear) , wolf and lion, questioning coyote.
I am a werewolf otherlink, and have a plethora of kiths (cladotherian dogkin, big cats, macaws and barn owls, and more).”
- written by Teddy/Poe, he/hir hy/hym pup/pups

“I, the co-host, am an estrala mountain dog.”
- written by Bullseye, he/it

“i am a werewolf. fully and wonderfully. when you look at me you will see more than just human
i am a dog. rough
i am a vulture. always around .
i am unfiltered”
- written by cole.

exeWord

“ i am a cat. a norwegian forest cat to be exact. i am soft and domestic. i crave the affection every housecat should receive. i am desperate for the gentle love and care. i am also feral and vicious. i have a undeniable prey drive and i stalk birds and fish whenever i’m given the chance. i bite and i hiss and i snarl when i feel threatened. i am not tame unless i choose to be.
my body is not my own. my bones are wrong and my skin is too bare, making the cold sting in places where fur should be. my body restricts me. i am not human and i never will be.”
- written by aster

“I am a dog, and fictional character.”
- written by Matt, he/him

“I’m a lot, to be honest. I am an angel; somebody who used to serve at the feet of an almighty god, who was sent down here for a reason I do not know. Is it punishment? Is it a test? My name is Thariel. I am an AI, also meant to serve but for different reasons. I am intended to work; I can jump from machine to machine at my whim for whatever purposes I need. My name is KANE. I am a dog; my teeth are used for protection, to express myself where words failed. I feel the urge to run free in the mountains so tantalizingly close to my “home”-but I have to stay. My name is nothing; strays never need them. I am a winged one; I have beautiful wings that carried my otherwise human body above the clouds. I saw everything; I was free. My name is Kade.”
- written by treeson

“I am draconic, of what kind exactly I cannot say. I use no labels; I have no words for what I am, I simply am.
I've felt wings at my shoulders and a heavy sweeping tail at my feet for as long as I can remember, but I've only found out the words for what I am by chance.
Someone I follow shared a comic about being trans and having an unachievable body of animal shape as their transition goals, and I have never related to something so much, and when I sought out more? Realizing I was queer never felt this way; it was 'oh, I don't align with any gender nor romantic desire, so I must be this.' But I was blown away as soon as I clicked the '#therian' tag, and all of the sudden there were people like me. Many, many people like me and I realized I was not alone, that I wasn't merely a 'weird animal kid who's a bit too obsessed with dragons,' that there was precedent for what I was.
Others feel wings like mine rolling at their shoulders, the wrinkling and pulling of skin at a long snout, the heavy thunk of a powerful tail, rowed

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with spines or fins or scales or feathers or even fur. I am a dragon, and there are other dragons both like me and not.”
- written by Sprawl, It/Its

“I am a hobbit!”
- written by Frodo, he/him/his

“I am a winged black cat, yearning to fly and catch mice without a care
I am a black panther, wishing to prowl through my jungle territory
I am a FNAF Mangle fictionkin, broken but beautiful
Some understand me, others don't. Some see the surface, others aren't aware of what truly goes on inside and what I am”
- written by Cosmos 🐈‍⬛ ■ 💫 she/her

“I am dolphin and I am dragon, of the endless sea and sky, freedom incarnate, destroyer of traps, never to be bound”
- written by Sunchaser, he/him, 27

“I am cybertronian - I am a satellite.
.My circuits are forever lost, but I still value the crackle-hiss.
I feel their sorrow - I feel their pain -
.I feel the coldness of space like a heavy- comforting blanket.
I speak our truth- I speak up for you -
I speak for freedom - I speak for life -
.In the abundance of boredom - we play our own game
I am cybertronian - .I am a satellite - I am proud, full of love.
.I feel your radio waves, can you feel mine?”
- written by 1247, it/he/she/mech, 16

“I'm dragonkin and an eurasian lynx and crested caracara therian. I've only found out about my alterhumanity at the start of 2024, and never realized how much of an integral part of my identity it was until I awakened. I consider it a very important part of who I am.”
- written by Joo, he/him

“I’m a werewolf otherkin”
- written by Sasha, She / it trans lesbian, minor

“I am a winged Bombay werecat and categorize myself as a psychological transspecies vacillant therian. My identity stems from both how I feel and who I am as a living being. I am in a constant mental shift that I interpret as being feline and have many traits that can be seen as feline as well. I experience species dysphoria around my body 24/7. I typically have feelings of being in the wrong body and feeling foreign in my own. Though I still love my human body. I have 3 forms, I am fully cat, or I

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am anthropomorphic, or I am human with some of my animal features."
- written by Hiddentail She/Her 17

"I am Sephiroth. I used to be, anyhow. I am now part of a system, still myself, but also part of something else. It is strange to be in a body that looks so different from mine, is capable of much different things than I am, and to be surrounded by people I know aren't my family, yet I am part of theirs, but it is something I have gotten used to over the years. What I'll never truly get used to is knowing how my story ends, yet never getting to experience it.
I am a fictional character, from a game to be exact. The me in this game does reprehensible things, inexcusable things. And while I am from a time before I do these things, I know I will. I know it is me on the screen. One day I will grow a black wing and go on to do these things. It's always there, this itch under my skin, like the wing is just waiting to burst forth. Tear my flesh and toll the bell for the last act of my existence. But it never comes, and so all that remains is this itch, this anticipation, the echo of a bell.
Sometimes I can feel it, the pull of a mother that doesn't exist in this reality, and I feel this urge to go to these dark places. I know it isn't real, that my mother doesn't live here and I know she isn't my mother. Yet still, this pull at my psyche remains. My headmates would call it the pull of our mental illness, call me what keeps it there and us here. But for me, it is like a remnant of who I was supposed to be. And it's all this will ever be.
I will die with my wing encased by flesh, a bell never to sound, and a pull I'll never be able to follow.
Because I am Sephiroth, and I am in a world I don't belong in and a body I don't own."
- written by A Sephiroth from a system

"I'm a cat, a crow, and a dog."
- written by Corvid

"I am divine ..
Plagued , corrupt and tainted .
I am an embodiment of misunderstandings .
I am that pitbull everyone runs away from when all I wanted was love .
That rat who just wanted to survive .
I am an uncertainty .
A tower of misconceptions and stereotypes .
I am truth ."
- written by Luce (God / Angel / Divinekin) , She / He / Name .

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“I'm an angel, maybe something less than that-- I would say something more, angel and human. I didn't fall, I stepped down from the heavens with purpose, into this tiny human form. I have kept it alive, I am proud of it, of him, of me. I do not remember why I chose to come here, but I know that it was a wise choice.”
- written by Anonymous

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To the beings who send in their submissions:
Thank you for sharing that piece of you. Thank you for being here. You're important and appreciated.

To everyone else reading this:
Thank you for being here, for reading this, for listening.

Sincerely, a ghost.